1367

THE DUTIES OF NOODLES OF THE Special Staff ON NIGHTS OF GENERAL REJOICING.

BY

THOMAS W**B. A. S. S.

Whipper and Hougher.

AND DEDICATED (WITHOUT PERMISSION)

TO THE MARE OF GOTHAM.

"Gotham's a town of great renown,
In loyalty complete;
The Noodles fight both day and night,
And rarely they retreat!"

ANTQIUE LEGEND.

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THE DUTIES, &c.

TO THE NOODLES OF THE SPECIAL STAFF OF THE CITY OF GOTHAM.

BROTHER NOODLES,

IN offering the following remarks to your notice, I can safely say I am actuated by no party principle; —— I am influenced by no prospect of gain; but merely a wish to lay before you my thoughts upon a subject of great *national importance.* And from the honourable situation which (under God) I now hold, so nearly allied to yours in its duties, I feel myself fully qualified to advise on the present occasion.

On nights of general rejoicing, more especially at Illuminations for the triumph of innocence over oppression, do your duty to the very letter; in doing which, if you conform to the rules that I shall short-

ly lay down, you will not only reflect the greatest honour on your native town, but stand a chance of getting into the first empty place, or fobbing the profits of the first fat benefice or sinecure, in the gift of the honourable and opulent Corporation to which I belong.

Precaution, says our *Civic Courier*, is always necessary, more especially when there is not the least appearance of danger; and it is only to serve the ends of this *serious* precaution that your aid will be at any time required, so it behoves you the more to know your duty. I would advise you, first, to place on the castle of Coal Keel a *blue Lanthorn*, so that whenever you wish the fun to commence, you will have it in your power to call in the *Calmucks*, sword in hand.

On the morning of the day on which your tricks will be required, increase your number as much as possible; and as it is probable very few will volunteer their services, you must canvass all the inferior Gothamites from your timber yards, workshops, and saw-pits; so that, by your exerting yourselves (as in duty bounden) to the utmost of your power, you will soon raise a *volunteer* corps, formidable enough to meet any number of peaceable Radicals who may have the *impudence to walk in the streets.*

Take care never to be far off one another for fear of a surprisal; so the best way is to keep in gangs, to be ready to spring, I mean stumble over any poor *single* sinner that may happen to be *looking at you.* Single, observe—for more than one never attempt to attack, for fear of resistance!

If you should ever catch hold of a fellow, and any more Radicals come to see what is the matter, take to your *heels* as fast as possible; though, if any one of you should happen to be laid in the mud—a delightful situation!—*sneak off* with the body, rouse his drooping spirits with a glass of brandy, and away home with him, like a thief in *bad company!*

Your most *important* duty is yet to perform, and which you must do without varying a jot, otherwise away flies the loyalty of the city of Gotham, and all the lucrative views of favour, place, pension, or sinecure. If it should happen that a body of musically inclined, though harmless strangers or countrymen, led by curiosity alone, should ever come along the Bridge, let fly the lanthorn from the castle of Coal Keel, and bring in your friends the *Calmucks,* marshal them in military order, and set your commander in chief at the head of them; to whom exultingly cry out, in the words of the immortal bard,

" ——Thou wert born to massacre mankind!
How many orphans, widows, husbands, sons,
Will rue the hour that ever thou wert born."

SHAKESPEARE.

Let him *pacify*, if possible the peaceable crowd; and, without law or logic, set the *Calmucks* scampering among the Gothamites, strangers, and lookers-on. For doing so, let this be your reason, a most undeniable and uncontradictory one—They had *no business* there—No! they have *no right* to *look* at illuminations. Certainly not! And therefore they must be rooted out of the town (though many of them live in it) with the drawn sabres of the *Calmucks*, the staves of the Noodles, and the threats and good words of the *Warlike* Chief.

Above all, remember the Church and State of Gotham need particular attention. Place yourselves in the castles of all the members of these honourable and respectable bodies, to *prevent* danger only when it will *never happen;* so that they above all may be secure in every respect.

Order, recollect, is the rock and foundation of all civil and military operations; and, therefore, be orderly in every respect, *sober*, silent, *hungry*, *thirsty;* and, finally, when you have done every thing in your power to make mischief, if without effect, set away the *Calmucks* to their "dreary pile;" and when

all has passed away more peaceably than you wished, drink a bumper and go to bed. The next day (if the pains of your extraordinary exertions will allow) call at the secret presence chamber, demand your pay, return your staves, and procure an order for a pound of beef stakes, with a sufficient quantity of onions; which eaten, go home, repose in qnietude, and "sin no more."

I remain,
With the greatest respect,
Brother Noodles, Yours, *specially*,
*THOMAS W**B*,
Whipper and Hougher.

Gotham,
20*th Nov.* 1820.

FORM OF OATH

To be taken by all A. S. Ses. *volunteering* as Noodles of the Special Staff.

I, THOMAS W**B, of the City and County of the City of Gotham, A. S. S. and Whipper and Hougher, do hereby make oath and declare, that I am fully qualified, from my strength of body and soul, to perform the arduous and important duties of a Noodle of the Special Staff.

I do further make oath and declare, that in the due performance of those duties, on all nights of public rejoicing, especially at illuminations, I shall use my utmost endeavours to make as much mischief as possible; I shall keep myself (as far as in me lies) *sober* and silent, watchful and vigilant, active and impudent, and shall omit no opportunity whatever of attacking any Radical that may be single and defenceless. If none can be found, I shall, according to the instructions of our Chieftain, act with the greatest punctuality and *bravery*.

In consequence whereof, I shall expect to be paid at and after the rate of one shilling and ninepence per head, for each and every person who may prove obstropolous, and whom I may be pleased to arrest, and bring to head quarters for contumacy of my orders. And I further expect to be treated with beef steaks and onions at the grand entertainment given to the honourable corps on the day of the termination of our services.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth Day of November, 1820.

*THOMAS W**B*, L. S.
A. S. S.

Sworn before me, at Gotham, 20th. Nov. 1820.

A. B. *MARE.*